



MICHAEL VEGA

John Sabel (left), a computer systems analyst with the NWS Office of Systems Operations, takes part in the Olympic Torch Relay in Landover, Md. He was assisted by Beth Weaver, an Olympic volunteer and torch escort.

Carrying a Flame for the Olympics and NWS

You could say that John Sabel is all fired up over the Atlanta Olympics.

And well he should be. Sabel, 61, a computer systems analyst with the NWS Office of Systems Operations and proudly carried the 1996 Olympic torch down the streets of Landover, Md., June 20.

Sabel was among the 106 people chosen to represent the state of Maryland and was selected as a torch bearer because of his community service and volunteer efforts.

Sabel carried the torch one kilometer on Central Avenue in Landover, beginning from West Hampton Avenue and ending just before Hill Road.

“This is extra,” Sabel said. “The enjoyment I get out of volunteer work is rewarding enough. There are a lot of people in the National Weather Service who volunteer their time and efforts but do not get recognized. For me this is symbolic of all federal employees who volunteer without recognition.”

Sabel who has worked with the National Weather Service for 21

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Open House Celebrates Two Anniversaries

A joint celebration of significant anniversaries brought the NOAA Ship *David Starr Jordan* to the NMFS Southwest Science Center in San Diego, California, for a well-attended open house in May.

The open house celebrated the achievements and contributions to fisheries science by the Center and *Jordan* and commemorated the 125th anniversary of NMFS and the 30th anniversary of *Jordan*.

During the 2-day event, commanding officer NOAA Lt. Chris Moore and the officers and crew of *Jordan* graciously welcomed visitors to tour their distinctive white ship docked in San Diego Bay. About 1400 people visited the 171-foot research and saw many sites, including the bridge and fly bridge, staterooms, galley and mess deck, and the scientific laboratories.

Shipboard exhibits staffed by Center scientists focused on research conducted on marine mammals, coastal fisheries, tuna and billfish, and the Antarctic ecosystem. They included a live fish tank filled with anchovies, sardines and mackerel; penguin eggs and feathers; a section of whale rib bone; swordfish and marlin bills; powerful binoculars



Hundreds gathered on the NOAA Ship *David Starr Jordan* for an open house in San Diego celebrating the 125th anniversary of NMFS and the 30th anniversary of the ship itself.

used by scientists to spot and count marine mammals and sea birds; microscopes and slides with larval fishes; and cleared and stained fishes. There also were interesting and informative exhibits by the NMFS Southwest Regional Office and National Weather Service.

At one point, gusty winds blew a display off the dock and into the bay, prompting an unscheduled salvage

operation. Visitors watched intently as a skiff and dive team were launched from *Jordan* and as NOAA divers searched for the display. The divers found the wayward display in about 30 feet of water and it was brought back safely to the ship.

Visitors were generally impressed with the ship and the research conducted by Center scientists. "This is the coolest field trip we've ever taken," one eager school child remarked to a companion as they clambered down a ladder from an upper deck. Another young student earnestly related that she wanted to become a scientist and work on *Jordan*. Adult visitors welcomed the rare opportunity to see a Federal research vessel which spends some 240 days a year at sea conducting oceanographic research.

A few days after the successful open house, *Jordan* scientists and crew departed San Diego on another scheduled research cruise, this time to study rockfish off northern California.

—Maryann Acinger Rodriguez

Earth & Sky Radio Update

Following are July's NOAA-related topics for Earth & Sky Radio:

- Moveable Crust - July 2
- Turtle Navigation - July 6
- Heat Bursts - July 7
- Zebra Mussel Invasion - July 9
- Spawning by Moonlight (Zebra Mussels) - July 10
- Cloud Seeding - July 12
- Constant Weather? - July 19
- Atmospheric Refraction - July 30

The Washington, D.C., affiliate for Earth & Sky is WDCU-FM, 90.1, airing Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. For the station nearest you, or for a copy of the scripts, call Jeanne Kouhestani at 202/482-6090 or e-mail her at Jeannek@pa@noaa (Banyan) or jkouhestani@rdc.noaa.gov (Internet), or check their web site, www.earthsky.com. ☺



NOAA Torchbearer All Fired Up Over Atlanta Olympic Games



Media and local interest in the Olympic torch relay was high as Sabel and Olympic escort Beth Weaver carried the flame in Landover, Md.

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years, writes computer software used in new weather forecasting technologies.

Sabel is a volunteer with the Achilles Track Club of Washington, D.C., where he has helped physically challenged and able-bodied runners for over eight years.

“As a club volunteer, I assist the physical challenged members with their training and exercise activities. Part of the reward we get as volunteers is that it gives us gratitude when some of those people begin doing things without our help,” he said. “There are many organizations that need help. Often it’s a few hours a month and sometimes it’s extensive. But the need is there and it’s quite enjoyable.”

Sabel, an active runner, often paves the way for others.

Recently, he assisted in the 24-hour Easter Seal relay race in Gaithersburg, Md., as a runner’s guide for a limited-vision runner and worked on redesigning racing wheel chairs for the organization’s members. He also helped a runner for half the race as a guide for a Russian heart-stroke runner and regularly supports teams from foreign countries.

“The Russian runner was a stroke victim and he had a few problems along the way, but eventually I helped him finish the race. He was determined to finish the race and I assisted him to the finish line,” Sabel said. “I really enjoy participating and

helping anyone who is actively improving their situation and overcoming their limitations.”

Recently, Sabel participated in the “Race for the Cure”, to raise awareness about breast cancer and its prevention, and also occasionally helps clean up the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. “There is always a need for more volunteers. As a federal employee, I believe that there is time for not only work-related activities but also community service,” he said.

Laura Stillwell, president of Achilles Track Club in Washington, D.C., and a federal employee with the Department of Housing and Development, said Sabel’s giving personality is an asset to the community, and the club and was not surprised of his nomination as an Olympic torchbearer.

Prior to the arrival of the Olympic flame in the United States on April 27, National Weather Service Offices across the county provided the Olympic committee with climatological information for many points along the relay route. Included in the Torch Relay’s forecast is maximum and minimum temperatures, precipitation and severe weather updates.

Olympic weather information will be available from a variety of sources including the Internet via NWS’ Olympic homepage on the World Wide Web, NOAA Weather Wire and on NOAA Weather Radio serving the Atlanta and Savannah metropolitan areas.

—Michael Vega ☺

Focus On...

Weather Radio Initiative Growing Strong Roots

Some parts of the country have made significant strides since Vice President Al Gore began an initiative in 1994 to improve the National Weather Service's ability to broadcast severe weather warnings to the public through the NOAA Weather Radio network.

"Persistent efforts by federal, state and local governments and private groups to get local support for adding NOAA Weather Radio transmitters are succeeding," said Dr. Elbert W. Friday Jr., NOAA Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.

Twenty new weather radio transmitters have recently gone on the air over the last two years in Alabama, Missouri, Florida, Utah, Arizona, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Washington, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, North Carolina, California, Kansas and Kentucky. More than twenty additional transmitters are planned for operation in 1996, said NOAA Weather Radio Program Manager Stan Johnson. All are the result of successful partnerships established by enlisting private sector and federal, state, and local organizations in partnerships with the National Weather Service to identify local needs and resources available to put new weather radio stations on the air.

The effort to extend the reach of NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts by the NWS began in the Spring of 1994. In late March of that year, 20 people in a rural Alabama church died when a tornado struck and collapsed the building during Palm Sunday services. The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning 12 minutes in advance of

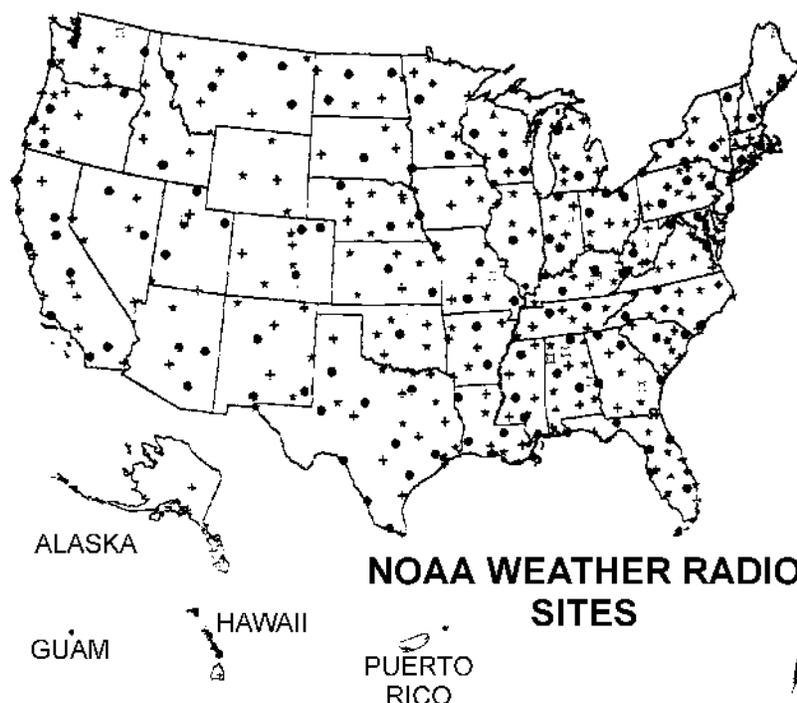
the tornado. NOAA Weather Radio, the "Voice of the National Weather Service" broadcast the warnings, but the warnings went unheard by many in the area. "In most rural areas of the country, NOAA Weather Radio coverage is spotty, and in many areas it is nonexistent because of a lack of transmitters," said Johnson.

As a direct result of the Alabama disaster, Vice President Gore established a task force, and announced a goal to make NOAA Weather Radio receivers as common as smoke detectors in American homes and to extend the coverage provided by the NOAA Weather Radio network to

95 percent of the U.S. population. The Weather Service estimates that approximately 325 additional transmitters are needed to meet this goal.

Since the Gore NOAA Weather Radio initiative began, the National Weather Service and other members of the Gore task force (Department of Agriculture and Federal Emergency Management Agency) have actively promoted public/private sector partnerships to provide the needed resources. This effort has resulted in new stations added to the NOAA Weather Radio network.

In Alabama, state funding was combined with FEMA funds and used by Auburn Agricultural Extension Service and rural electric cooperatives to establish five new



weather radio transmitters. The Alabama effort followed an NWS plan, developed through national, regional, and local efforts and administered by National Weather Service staff in Alabama, and NWS Southern Region in Fort Worth, Texas, to upgrade the entire weather radio network in Alabama by the end of 1996. The first Gore initiative transmitter to go on the air is located in Fort Payne, Ala. Dr. Friday dedicated the transmitter in Piedmont, Ala., in December 1994.

The first stations funded and installed entirely by the private sector since the Gore initiative began went on the air in early 1996 in Crawford and Shannon Counties, Missouri. Five rural electric cooperatives in the state worked with the National Weather Service to install the new transmitters, dedicated in March 1996. According to David Runyan of the NWS Central Region, the cooperatives plan to fund more Missouri transmitters in the coming years. In a letter to Crawford Electric Cooperative General Manager Larry Austin, Vice President Gore said the new transmitters make significant progress toward the goal of providing protection from severe weather and other hazards to thousand of rural Missourians.

“We can all now hope that your association’s efforts inspire others around the country to pursue similar projects,” Gore said.



NOAA Weather Radio program manager Stan Johnson (standing, at lecturn) at the dedication of a new NOAA Weather Radio transmitter in Missouri.

FLORIDA EFFORT

In Florida, local county emergency managers, working in close cooperation with the local National Weather Service staff, installed a new station in Fort Pierce and are completing plans for stations in Ocala, Salem, and Eastpoint. The Fort Pierce transmitter was purchased through a combination of local government and citizen contributions, augmented with a \$12,000 grant from Florida Power & Light. Other transmitters are being purchased using funding grants from the state.

In the other states, similar partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and private sector

“cooperators” are yielding similar results.

Electric cooperatives and other private sector organizations such as the Washington State Grange and some NOAA Weather Radio receiver manufacturers have donated several thousand weather radios with tone alarms to hospitals, schools, nursing homes and other public gathering places throughout the country. With the radios, people can get continuous, potentially lifesaving updates of weather forecasts, watches and warnings directly from the National Weather Service offices serving the local areas.

—Barry Reichenbaugh ☺

Asian and Pacific American Heritage Celebrated

NOAA celebrated Asian Pacific American Heritage Observance Month in May by hosting a special program at its Science and Technology Center in Silver Spring, Md. Diana Josephson, Deputy Under Secretary, provided opening remarks and commended employees for valuing the diversity of the workplace. Employees were entertained by Raymond Wong's Chinese Dance Troupe who performed a traditional Lion Dance for good luck. Dr. Michael Lin, National President of the



Raymond Wong's Chinese Dance Troupe performed for the heritage program.

Va. Governor Honors Teacher for Work with Young Students

Eveline Cropper-Conquest a secretary at NOAA's Command and Data Acquisition Station in Wallops, Va., has received the Governor of Virginia's Business Education Partnership Award from Gov. George Allen for her work with students.

Cropper-Conquest said that a telephone call a year earlier was the impetus for the development of HELP, Inc., a tutoring program for students. HELP, the Horntown Educational Learning Project was initially organized to tutor high school students from Horntown, in Accomack County to achieve better grades. The focus quickly spread to elementary school students as well.

"Miss Eveline," as the children call her, coordinates a group of volunteers who meet at Tabernacle Baptist Church Annex to assist students with their homework and to provide tutoring in various subjects. About 100 children have received help with homework or tutoring through HELP.

Cropper-Conquest also initiated a summer Pre-Kindergarten basic skills program for 27 two- to six-year old students who were potentially at-risk. ☺



Diana Josephson displays her work schedule in Chinese calligraphy.

Organization of Chinese Americans, gave an enlightening talk on how employees can network within their community to enhance career opportunities. Supplementing the Observance Program were delicacies representative of Vietnam and Thailand, a beautiful art exhibit and a film festival on Asian-Pacific culture and history. Asian Pacific American Heritage Observance Month is one of several cultural awareness programs designed so employees may gain a greater appreciation of the diverse groups of people in the Nation. ☺



Va. Governor George Allen (left) and Va. Secretary of Education Beverly Sgro (right), present Evelyn Cropper-Conquest with the Business Education Partnership Award.

Data Center Awards Part of Reinvention

Five employees were recently honored in an innovative awards program at the National Geophysical Data Center in Boulder, Colo., in which nominations were made by other staff members rather than by managers or supervisors.

The award program was developed as a part of the Reinventing Government initiative. The Boulder reinvention team recommended that line organizations establish mission-related incentive award programs. Nominations are submitted by staff personnel and reviewed by the data center director, the awards commit-



The NGDC honorees included (left to right) Barbara A. Abbott and Patrick J. Hayes, Customer Service Awards; Dr. Peter W. Sloss, Director's Award; Susan J. McLean, Staff Excellence Award; and Kimberly K. Nye, EEO Award.

tee, division chiefs, and the Equal Employment Opportunity committee. This is the third year that the awards have been presented. The

awards were presented by Robert S. Winokur, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services. ☺

NOAA Executives Show Their Potential in USDA Graduate Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School's Executive Potential Program (EPP) is a twelve month career development program which provides a foundation of management training and appropriate developmental experiences to high potential GS-13 and -14 level individuals in preparation for higher level management or executive positions.

The 1995-1996 EPP class included twelve NOAA employees who were nominated by NOAA management. The year was filled with many challenges and rich and varied experiences for the NOAA participants. It began with various individual skills/needs assessment activities and preparation of individual development plans to map out strategies for meeting individual, group, and program goals and requirements. The activities over the year included team projects and exercises, residential seminars in key management areas, interviews with senior managers, shadowing assign-

ments, and developmental assignments in offices outside of the participants' normal areas of responsibility.

Each of the NOAA participants coordinated closely with supervisors, mentors, and home offices to ensure that this experience was valuable to the agency as well as to the individual. It required a great deal of effort on the part of management in terms of providing advice, encouragement, support, as well as ensuring that critical work was accomplished while participants were away on developmental assignments and training seminars.

The twelve graduates said they are committed to "providing a return on the investment" made in them by NOAA management by demonstrating renewed commitment to their jobs, increased professionalism, improved management skills, and greater ability to tackle the difficult challenges which face NOAA in the future. The graduates are committed

to advising and supporting future NOAA EPP participants. They also plan to augment the NOAA staffing levels on a temporary basis by developing "detail" assignments for their offices which may be filled by participants from other Federal agencies in the new EPP class.

The graduates are Nancy E. Bernigaud, James R. Christman, Robert Diaz, Jr., John D. Gallivan, Laurie G. Hermes, P. Donald Jiron, Joseph E. Johnson (NWS); Paul Anninos, Kevin Chu, Arthur E. Jeffers (NMFS); Rosalind E. Cohen (NESDIS); and Linda Kupfer (OAR).

Among their accomplishments:

- Paul Anninos was responsible for the final design and initial implementation of the new NMFS Strategic Planning Process;
- James Christman wrote a grant proposal for the Ford Foundation while on assignment at the Coastal America Program;

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NW Fishery Aid: In a continuing response to the collapse of salmon fishery resources in the Northwest, the Commerce Department will provide a total of \$7.35 million in two grants to boost investment in salmon restoration and protection. This action continues a similar relief program of \$8 million that started in 1995.

The grants will help fund restoration of Northwest salmon and steelhead trout spawning habitat on privately owned land by fishers who have been displaced because of harvest cutbacks, and will help fund restoration of Northwest salmon and steelhead trout spawning habitat on privately owned land.

News Briefs

"This action underscores the Clinton administration's commitment to the development of a sustainable commercial fishery," said Vice President Al Gore. "We are continuing our efforts to ensure and enhance the region's environmental and economic growth."

Ozone-Depleting Chemicals on the Move: A new study by government and university researchers shows how air moves chemicals between different regions of the stratosphere, which may help scientists better understand the depletion of the ozone layer. The findings could also affect assessment of the environmental impact of a proposed fleet of supersonic aircraft and the possible ozone-depleting pollutants they emit.

New Tuna Quotas, Management Improvements: A 1996 Atlantic bluefin tuna quota of 1,306 metric tons and several improvements to federal regulations governing the fisheries have been approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service. ☺

Leadership Meets with Constituents

NOAA leadership met with representatives of the agency's Gulf Region constituents in New Orleans last month, the first of a planned series of regional meetings.

NOAA Administrator Dr. D. James Baker expressed his hopes that this meeting would help to maintain and improve communication and cooperative working relationships with those organizations and individuals having an interest in NOAA programs, products, and services in the Gulf Region. The approximately 200 attendees separated into four workshops to deal with the following issues: Sustaining Healthy Coasts; Building Sustainable Fisheries; Severe Weather Preparedness; and Navigation.

The meeting provided for an informative and stimulating exchange of views by the various interest groups.

Representatives of Federal, State and local government, as well as the research community, academia, business and special interest groups made up the sessions, and shared their experiences and perspectives as they identified individual issues for discussion within each workshop, and worked to develop new partnerships, new solutions to existing problems, and plans for future cooperation.

Based on the information learned and shared in these sessions, NOAA will develop an action plan in coordination with other Federal, State and local agencies and constituencies.

NOAA has tentatively planned future regional constituent workshops in the Great Lakes/Upper Mississippi Valley Region, the Northwest Region, New England, and the Pacific/Southwest Region. ☺

NOAA Grads Show Their Potential

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- Kevin Chu helped to develop a plan to reduce the accidental entanglement and subsequent drowning of harbor porpoises in fishing nets;
- Roz Cohen assisted in the preparation of the U.S. strategy, and attended a meeting of a scientific body created under the Biodiversity Convention at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, while on a detail with the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs at the State Department;
- Robert Diaz was selected for a two-term position as the Deputy Meteorologist in Charge for the NWSFO in Monterey, California;
- Linda Kupfer participated in an interagency project designed to determine which, how much, and where drugs should be stockpiled

to be used in the event of a biological or chemical warfare situation, as an assignment in the Office of Emergency Preparedness, Department of Health and Human Services. ☺

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